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Letter dated 12 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I regret to inform you of the following serious occurrences in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

For more than a month, "Antonov" heavy cargo aircraft of the regular army of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya have been flying in and out of the part of the Congolese territory which is occupied by the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC).

These flights, which are heavily concentrated in the airports of the towns of Gbadolite and Zongo on the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, enable the Libyan army to reinforce the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC) and supply it with troops, ammunition and heavy and light weapons, so as to help it resume hostilities in the direction of Beni, Mbandaka and Kinshasa.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that the Libyan military presence in its territory constitutes very grave interference in its internal affairs.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo cannot understand how an independent State like the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya can deploy troops in the territory of another independent and sovereign State without the prior agreement of that Government.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo would like to draw the Security Council's attention to the consequences of the bellicose attitude of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Mouvement de libération du Congo, which is liable to undermine the multiple efforts being made by the international community through the Security Council to promote a return to normality in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and those of the Congolese parties themselves for the conclusion of the comprehensive and inclusive agreement which is being formulated in Pretoria.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo holds the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Mouvement de libération du Congo responsible for any failure of this agreement and calls upon the Security Council to take the necessary measures to put an end to this Libyan interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in particular:

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1. To note that the attitude of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is a grave violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Constituent Act of the African Union;

2. To condemn this attitude and hold the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC) responsible for:

(a) Any failure of the comprehensive agreement of Pretoria, the conclusion of which is eagerly awaited by all strata of the Congolese population and the international community as a whole;

(b) The consequences which would result from such a failure for the Congolese population and for all the peoples of the Great Lakes region.

3. To demand from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya the immediate withdrawal of its troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the cessation of its military assistance to the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Nduku **Booto**
Chargé d'affaires ad interim, First Counsellor